



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 25, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Resolutions Regarding OK Conference Districts and Gender Equity Athletic Committee

Attached are two resolutions regarding OK (Ottawa-Kent) Conference Districts and OK (Ottawa-Kent) Conference Gender Equity Athletic Committee.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the resolutions regarding OK Conference Districts and Gender Equity Athletic Committee, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated August 25, 2008.

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**State of Michigan  
State Board of Education**

**RESOLUTION**

**OK (Ottawa-Kent) Conference Districts**

**WHEREAS, the OK conference school districts are recognized as committed advocates for high school athletic equity as they demonstrate their support of the OK Conference Gender Equity Committee and the Kent ISD by embracing the rules and regulations as required by the United States Department of Justice and the Office of Civil Rights; and**

**WHEREAS, the OK Conference districts' athletic leaders are committed to securing athletic equity within their districts by providing consistent Title IX reporting to the Kent ISD via annual compliance data, student interest surveys every three years, and a five-year Gender Equity Compliance Audit developed in 2008; and**

**WHEREAS, the OK Conference school districts, Title IX coordinators, and athletic directors annually provide and distribute comparative athletic participation data to the Kent ISD as well as parents and athletes, in an effort to bring increased attention and resources toward ensuring that gender equity becomes a reality in terms of equitable treatment and support for boys and girls as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and**

**WHEREAS, the creation and implementation of the first-ever Gender Equity Compliance Audit, Year 2007-2008, within the State of Michigan by members of the OK Conference Athletic Committee and district volunteers, stands as evidence of the commitment to athletic equity that defines the OK Conference athletic program; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education commends the outstanding efforts of equity leadership by the superintendents of the OK Conference for recognizing the legal requirements of every school district to accommodate the interests and abilities of their high school athletes, and applauds the leadership and direction of Kent ISD, in cooperation with Communities For Equity, in expediting full compliance measures within all districts by creating reporting requirements, documentation, and activity calendars beginning in Year 2006; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education recognize the OK Conference school districts as "leaders of equity" in their steadfast commitment toward fairness in athletics by creating a system that promotes gender equity, Title IX compliance, and serve as a model for all Michigan school districts to emulate.**

**State of Michigan  
State Board of Education**

**RESOLUTION**

**OK (Ottawa-Kent) Conference Gender Equity Athletic Committee**

**WHEREAS, the OK Conference Gender Equity Committee, consisting of representatives of conference school districts, the Kent ISD, and Communities for Equity, is committed to the concept of "fair play" for both genders in all aspects of athletic opportunities; and**

**WHEREAS, the OK Conference Gender Equity Committee embraces the rules and regulations as required by the United States Department of Justice and the Office of Civil Rights in terms of providing athletic equity for all participants in Michigan's high school athletic programs; and**

**WHEREAS, the OK Conference Gender Equity Committee, recent past and present members, with the support of former Kent ISD Superintendent Mike Weiler, current Superintendent, Kevin Konarska, and Assistant Superintendent, Ron Koehler, as well as the Kent ISD member district superintendents, recognize the importance of Annual Equity Disclosure reports originally conducted by Communities For Equity with the assistance of Kent ISD; and**

**WHEREAS, recognizing the legal requirements of every school district to accommodate the interests and abilities of their high school athletes, the OK Conference Gender Equity Committee provided leadership and direction for all OK Conference members by creating reporting requirements, documentation, and activity calendars beginning in 2006; and**

**WHEREAS, the creation and implementation of the first-ever Gender Equity Compliance Audit, Year 2007-2008, within the State of Michigan by members of the OK Conference Athletic Committee and district volunteers stands as recognition of the commitment toward athletic equity that defines the OK Conference athletic program; and**

**WHEREAS, the goal of the OK Conference Gender Equity Athletic Committee members is to provide athletic equity in all schools within their Conference and, thereby, create a legacy of equitable support in every aspect of high school athletics to be upheld by all districts as required by law and by genuine concern for fairness to all children of OK Conference schools; now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education recognize the leadership of the OK Conference Gender Equity Committee for its commitment to equal opportunity for all students, and the leadership provided for OK Conference members and school districts across Michigan in documenting and verifying equitable athletic opportunities and participation.**